

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 3600

Application No. 10/649,330

Paper Dated March 15, 2005

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of December 15, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 0388-031646

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower having a mower unit disposed between front wheels and rear wheels, comprising:

a body frame supported above the ground by said front wheels and rear wheels, said body frame having a front cross frame in a forward portion thereof with respect to a longitudinal direction of a vehicle body;

a main jack body mounted on the front cross frame to be pivotable about a pivot shaft extending longitudinally of the vehicle body, said main jack body being in a storage position extending along said front cross frame when pivoted to a first pivot position about said pivot shaft, and in a substantially vertical position relative to the ground when pivoted to a second pivot position about the pivot shaft, said main jack body being extendible and contractible, in said vertical position relative to the ground, to raise and lower said front cross frame when an operating force is applied to a controlled portion of the main jack body;

a brake pedal disposed in a forward portion of the body frame to be movable between a braking position and a non-braking position; and

a lock device for holding the brake pedal in said braking position;

wherein said brake pedal in said non-braking position blocks operation of said control device engaged with said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground.

2. (Original) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 1, wherein said controlled portion is upwardly exposed when said main jack body is in said vertical position relative to the ground, said mid-mount mower further comprising a control device for

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engaging said upwardly exposed controlled portion of the main jack body, and for extending and contracting said main jack body through said controlled portion.

3. (Original) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 2, wherein said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground is upwardly exposed through an opening formed in said front cross frame.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 1 further comprising a link member interlocked to movement of said brake pedal, said link member blocking operation of said control device engaged with said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground, when said brake pedal is in the non-braking position.

6. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 1, wherein said lock device is formed as a lock pedal, said brake pedal and said lock pedal being arranged side by side around a central area of said cross frame.

7. (Original) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 2, wherein said main jack body in the first pivot position is contained in said front cross frame, said control device held by said cross frame holding said main jack body in said storage position.

8. (Currently Amended) A mid-mount mower having a mower unit disposed between front wheels and rear wheels, comprising:

a body frame supported above the ground by said front wheels and rear wheels, said body frame having a front cross frame in a forward portion thereof with respect to a longitudinal direction of a vehicle body; and

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a main jack body mounted on the front cross frame, said main jack body being in a storage position when in a first shift position, and in a substantially vertical position relative to the ground when in a second shift position;

said main jack body being extendible and contractible, in said vertical position relative to the ground, to raise and lower said front cross frame when an operating force is applied to a controlled portion of the main jack body; and

a brake pedal disposed in a forward portion of the body frame to be movable between a braking position and a non-braking position;

wherein, when said brake pedal is in the non-braking position, said brake pedal or a link member interlocked to movement of said brake pedal blocking operation of said control device engaged with said controlled portion of the main jack body is in said vertical position relative to the ground.

9. (Original) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 8, wherein said controlled portion is upwardly exposed when said main jack body is in said vertical position relative to the ground, said mid-mount mower further comprising a control device for engaging said upwardly exposed controlled portion of the main jack body, and for extending and contracting said main jack body through said controlled portion.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A mid-mount mower having a mower unit disposed between front wheels and rear wheels, comprising:

a body frame supported above the ground by said front wheels and rear wheels, said body frame having a front cross frame in a forward portion thereof with respect to a longitudinal direction of a vehicle body, said front cross frame suspending said front wheels; and

a main jack body mounted on the front cross frame to be pivotable about a pivot shaft extending longitudinally of the vehicle body, said main jack body being in a storage position extending along said front cross frame when pivoted to a first pivot position

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about said pivot shaft, and in a substantially vertical position relative to the ground with one end of said main jack body contacting the ground when pivoted to a second pivot position about the pivot shaft;

wherein when an operating force is applied to a controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground, said main jack body ~~is extendible and contractible~~ extends and contracts steplessly retaining said vertical position to raise and lower said front cross frame while maintaining said front cross frame in a substantially parallel posture relative to the ground.

12. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 11, wherein said controlled portion is upwardly exposed when said main jack body is in said vertical position relative to the ground, said mid-mount mower further comprising a control device for engaging said upwardly exposed controlled portion of the main jack body, and for extending and contracting said main jack body through said controlled portion.

13. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 12, wherein said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground is upwardly exposed through an opening formed in said front cross frame.

14. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 12, wherein said main jack body in the first pivot position is contained in said front cross frame, said control device held by said cross frame holding said main jack body in said storage position.

15. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 11, further comprising a brake pedal disposed in a forward portion of the body frame to be movable between a braking position and a non-braking position; and a lock device for holding the brake pedal in said braking position; wherein said brake pedal in said non-braking position blocks operation of said control device engaged with said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground.

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16. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 15, wherein said lock device is formed as a lock pedal, said brake pedal and said lock pedal being arranged side by side around a central area of said cross frame.

17. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 11 further comprising a brake pedal disposed in a forward portion of the body frame to be movable between a braking position and a non-braking position, a lock device for holding the brake pedal in said braking position, and a link member interlocked to movement of said brake pedal, said link member blocking operation of said control device engaged with said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground, when said brake pedal is in the non-braking position.

18. (Previously Presented) A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 17, wherein said lock device is formed as a lock pedal, said brake pedal and said lock pedal being arranged side by side around a central area of said cross frame.